



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/600,416 Confirmation No. 7010
Applicant : Claude L. RICKERD
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Title : CONNECTION ASSEMBLY FOR USE WITH SPLITTABLE SHEATH
TC/AU : 3767
Examiner : Catherine Witczak
Docket No. : 0B-048600US/82410-0052
Customer No. : 55962

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE ACCOMPANYING REQUEST
FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Sir:

This paper responds to the final Office action mailed January 30, 2007 ("the Office action") and accompanies a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application in light of the following.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.